

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HM-612PCT

Applicant(s) : Walter Trakowski, et al

Serial No. : NOT YET KNOWN (PCT/EP03/03219)

Int. Filed : March 28, 2003

For : USE OF SEPARATION GAS IN CONTINUOUS HOT  
DIP METAL FINISHING

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In advance of the first office action, please amend the  
claims as follows: